# GPA for Australia: the 7-point and 4-point scales, the bands, and the WAM

| | 7-point GPA | 4-point GPA (Monash) | WAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Values | HD 7, D 6, C 5, P 4, F 0 | HD 4.0, D 3.0, C 2.0, P 1.0, N 0.3, WN 0.0 | the mark, 0-100 |
| Formula | sum of (value x credit points) / sum of credit points | the same | sum of (mark x credit points) / sum of credit points |
| Used by | UAC's methodology; ANU, UNSW, UQ, Griffith and most | Monash | UNSW, Melbourne, Sydney and others |
| Maximum | 7.00 | 4.00 | 100 |

## Where the grade bands start

| Grade | UNSW, ANU and most (HD from 85) | Monash, Melbourne (HD from 80) | 7-point value | 4-point value (Monash) | UAC value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| High Distinction | 85-100 | 80-100 | 7 | 4.0 | 7 |
| Distinction | 75-84 | 70-79 | 6 | 3.0 | 6 |
| Credit | 65-74 | 60-69 | 5 | 2.0 | 5 |
| Pass | 50-64 | 50-59 | 4 | 1.0 | 4 |
| Fail | below 50 | below 50 | 0 | 0.3 (N); 0.0 withdrawn fail | 0 |

UAC's other values: for a letter system A 6.5, B 5, C 4, F 0; Melbourne honours H1 7, H2A 6.5, H2B 6, H3 4.5; conceded pass 3; ungraded pass 4 (included only where it helps the applicant). Advanced units get no extra weight.

## Worked example (four units of 6 credit points)

| Unit | Mark | Grade (HD from 85) | 7-point | 4-point (Monash bands) | Credit points |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unit 1 | 78 | D | 6 | 3.0 | 6 |
| Unit 2 | 64 | P | 4 | 2.0 | 6 |
| Unit 3 | 85 | HD | 7 | 4.0 | 6 |
| Unit 4 | 71 | C | 5 | 3.0 | 6 |
| Result | WAM 74.50 | | GPA 5.50 | GPA 3.00 | 24 |

On the HD-from-80 bands the same marks give a 7-point GPA of 6.00 (the 78 becomes a High Distinction). A GPA throws away everything inside a band (75 and 84 are both a 6); a WAM keeps the marks.

From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/gpa-calculator-australia-the-7-point-and-4-point-scales-wam-to-gpa-how-universities-calculate-it-the-uac-method-and-why-there-is-no-atar-to-gpa-conversion/ · 1-on-1 online maths, physics and chemistry for Years 11 and 12, Australian after-school hours, free 30-minute first class.

# ATAR and GPA, the uses of the number, and your units

## ATAR to GPA: no conversion exists

[ ] An ATAR is a rank in the age cohort from scaled Year 12 results (99.95 at the top); a GPA is an average of university grades. No admissions centre publishes a table between them.

[ ] Universities admit school leavers on the ATAR and applicants with tertiary study on a GPA (UAC converts the GPA to a selection rank with its own methodology).

[ ] A US or Canadian college asking for a GPA from a Year 12 student: give the ATAR and the subject results with the scale stated (study scores out of 50, HSC marks out of 100). Do not invent a 4.0 figure.

[ ] WAM to GPA: unit by unit, never from the average; a WAM of 74.5 can be a GPA of 5.5 or 6.0 depending on the units behind it.

## What the number is for

| Decision | Usual measure | Common cut-off |
|---|---|---|
| Honours entry | WAM or GPA | WAM 70-80, or GPA 5.5-6.5 on the 7-point scale |
| Postgraduate admission | GPA (7-point) or WAM | GPA 5.0-6.0; UAC's GPA for undergraduate applicants with tertiary study |
| Prizes, exchange, scholarships | WAM mostly | faculty-specific |
| Units that move it most | | the most credit points, and marks just under a band boundary: 74 is a Credit, 75 a Distinction |

## Your units

| Unit | Mark | Grade | 7-point value | Credit points | Value x credit points | Mark x credit points |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Total | | | | | | |

GPA = total of value x credit points / total credit points. WAM = total of mark x credit points / total credit points.